

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-8 are pending and are rejected.

Claims 1-8 are cancelled without prejudice and disclaimer, and claims 9-18 are added.

New claims 9-18 are directed to FIGs. 3 and 5. For example, independent claim 9 recites a stereophonic expansion circuit comprising a first amplifier having an output, a first input for receiving a left and right audio sum signal, and a second input, wherein a first impedance couples the output to the second input of the first amplifier; a second impedance having a first terminal coupled to the second input of the first amplifier and a second terminal to a first switch, wherein when the first switch is in a close position, the second impedance is coupled to ground, reducing a gain of the amplifier according to a frequency response of the first and second impedances; an input for receiving a left and right audio difference signal; and a matrixing circuit for producing left and right audio signals from a signal at the output of the amplifier and the received left and right audio difference signal.

An example of the first amplifier and the first switch are an amplifier 42 and a transistor 32 in FIG. 5, respectively. An example of the first impedance is a resistor 46 in FIG. 5, and an example of the second impedance is the combination of resistors 37 and 39, and capacitors 38 and 40 in FIG. 5. An example of the matrixing circuit is the circuit in FIG. 5 in the downstream of the amplifiers 42 and 56 for producing the left and right audio signals from the sum and difference signals.

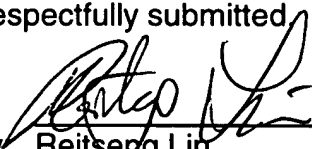
Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable over US Patent No. 5,982,831 ("Schott") because Schott does not disclose or suggest a stereophonic expansion

circuit comprising a second impedance having a first terminal coupled to a second input of a first amplifier for amplifying a left and right audio sum signal and a second terminal to a first switch, wherein when the first switch is in a close position, the second impedance is coupled to ground, reducing a gain of the first amplifier according to a frequency response of a first impedance (coupling the output to the second input of the first amplifier) and the second impedance, as recited in claim 9. See FIG. 6 of Schott. As such, claim 9, and dependent claims 10-18, are patentable over Schott.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted


By: Reitseng Lin
Reg. No. 42,804
Phone (609) 734-6813

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop Amendment], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

8-16-04
Date

Karen Schleich